

<http://www.susps.org/overview/numbers.html>

**1790 Nationality Act:** Citizenship available to “free white persons” of good moral character

**1848: Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo** (which ends Mexican American War) guarantees citizenship for Mexicans who choose to stay

- Notes the tradition of intermarriage among Anglo/Californio elites

**1870** Sumner tries to get race abolished as criteria for citizenship (fails) in 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**1875: Page Act** “prohibited the importation of unfree laborers and women brought for “immoral purposes” (aimed at Chinese immigrants)

**1882: Chinese Exclusion Act**

**1882, 1885, 1891, 1903, 1907, and 1917** excluded immigrants for a variety of economic, health, moral, and physical reasons

- o 1903 Law barred the insane, impoverished\*, prostitutes and anarchists
  - first time political ideas were reason for banning
  - \$2 tax per head (raised to \$4 in 1907)
- o 1907 prevent paupers and “immigrants who represented a threat to American labor standards.”
  - **Here’s the text:** *All idiots, imbeciles, feeble minded persons, epileptics, insane persons, and persons who have been insane within five years previous; persons who have had two or more attacks of insanity at any time*

*previously; paupers; persons likely to become a public charge; professional beggars; persons afflicted with tuberculosis or with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease; persons not comprehended within any of the foregoing excluded classes who are found to be and are certified by the examining surgeon as being mentally or physically defective, such mental or physical defect being of a nature which may affect the ability of such alien to earn a living...*<sup>[6]</sup>

**1887** American Protective Association founded (peaks in 1890s with 2.5 million members)

**1890s** Immigration Restriction League Founded

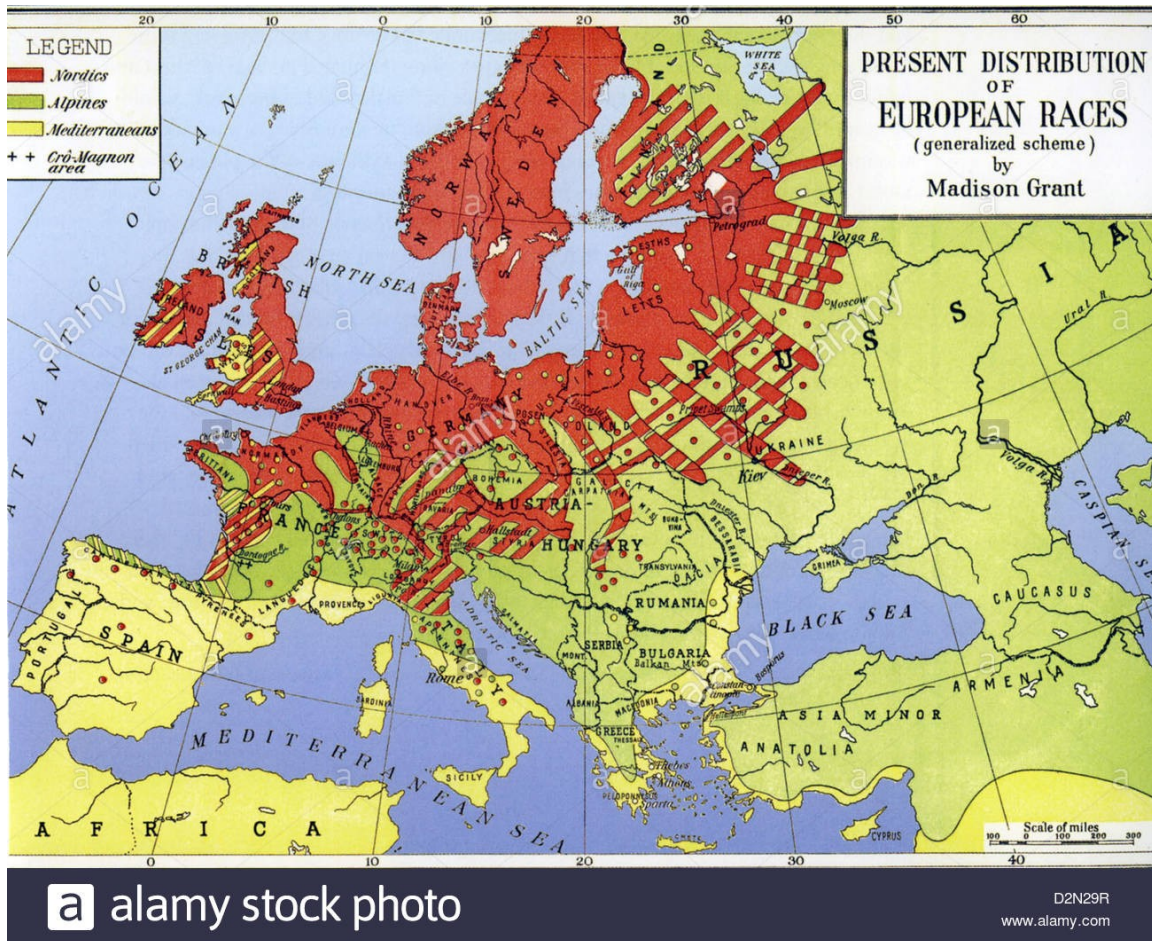
1907 “Gentleman’s Agreement” to restrict Japanese immigration by U.S.-Japan govt’s.

- Comes in wake of post-Earthquake San Francisco effort to segregate Japanese-American students from whites (and place them in “The Oriental Public School for Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans.”)

1913 Alien Land Act (California; imitated by Washington and Oregon), limiting landholding by persons ineligible for citizenship

- Driven by Anti-Japanese sentiment, particularly in regards to their success in agriculture.

**1916:** Publishing of Madison Grant’s *Passing of the Great Race* (see map)



1917 Immigration Act (Passed by override of Wilson's veto)

- All "Asian" immigration banned (Afghanistan>Pacific)
  - See *Sindh* and *Ozawa* cases below
- Literacy made a requirement for immigration

**1917:** WWI also ushers in *era of documents and passport controls*, which begin as emergency war responses but become the international system

**1919:** Mexicans required to get visa to enter U.S.

**1921 Immigration Act**

- Sets 3% of 1910 levels as quota for Europeans, total # of 355, 000 for all, and gave 14 months to come up with a permanent policy

**1922:** *Ozawa v. U.S.*:

- Japanese Immigrant with 20 years in U.S. applied for citizenship, arguing that "free white persons" clause in 1790 act was meant to exclude African Americans and Native Americans, and not Japanese
- Court acknowledges that skin color is not a reliable guide but decides that Japanese are not Caucasian and thus ineligible for naturalization.
- <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=260&invol=178>

**1923:** *U.S v. Bhagat Singh Thind*

- Sikh immigrant Thind challenged his exclusion from citizenship, arguing that he was Caucasian and shared the Aryan language (as per criteria established by *Ozawa* case)
- <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5076/>
- Citizenship access is denied, because even though his argument on the basis of the contemporary “science” of race fits what the court established a year earlier in *Ozawa*, they now reject that standard and establish that South Asians are non-white.

### **1924 Johnson-Reed National Origins Act (also known as “1924 Immigration Act”)**

- 155K total immigration per year
  - based on 2% of the specific foreign-born population in 1890, which dramatically cuts Southern/Eastern European immigration
    - e.g., Greek immigration goes from 3000 (1921 quota) to 100
  - minimum of 100 per country
  - family exemptions for wives and children of *citizens*
- Exclusion of anyone not eligible for citizenship--this barred half the world’s population, according to one study
  - thus, 100 Chinese slots for non-Chinese
- Some level of inspection done overseas
- *No* restrictions on immigration from Western hemisphere
- Notes Japanese response of major quotas, which capsized some American exporters (cotton, fruit preserves, woolen goods); these last into 1930s

**1924:** Border Patrol is established

**1930s:** Beginning of immigration appeals by illegal (European) detainees, who pleaded hardship and were often given exclusions

**1930s:** Repatriation of Mexicans from U.S. (esp. Southern California)

- An estimated sixty percent of the “repatriates” were children or American citizens by birth
- Biggest removal since Indian removal

**1934:** Philippines Independence Act (Independence ultimately granted in 1946) reduces Filipino immigration to 50 persons/year

**1943:** Magnuson Act revokes Chinese Exclusion Act

**1946:** Asian Indians’ exclusion from right to naturalize is overturned

**1952** McCarran-Walter Act abolishes all racial qualifications for citizenship

**1965:** Hart-Celler Act revokes old quotas, establishes 20K ceiling for each country, with originally a 300K ceiling altogether